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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4667
INFO RUEHXK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000806

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/07/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [BA](#) [REGION](#) [OFFICIALS](#)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S READOUT OF PALESTINIAN FM AL ZAHAR VISIT

REF: A. MANAMA 0724
[¶](#)B. MANAMA 0711
[¶](#)C. MANAMA 0675

Classified by Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[¶](#)1. (C) In a May 6 meeting covering several subjects (septels), the Ambassador, noting that he had not met with him since Palestinian Foreign Minister Al Zahar's April 24 visit to Bahrain, asked Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa for a readout of the visit. Shaikh Khalid said he met with Al Zahar at 6:30 pm, well after Al Zahar's morning arrival in Bahrain. Al Zahar "spoke of the misery of the Palestinian people, which we know." Shaikh Khalid said he told Al Zahar that Hamas should develop good relations with and support President Abbas. He said that Hamas must accept every step taken and agreement reached by Israel and Palestinians, including UN resolutions, peace treaties, and the Arab peace initiative. If Hamas did not do so, everything accomplished since the beginning would be destroyed, including "the system that brought Hamas to power."

[¶](#)2. (C) On terrorism, Shaikh Khalid said he told Al Zahar that he did not like Hamas' response to the Tel Aviv suicide bombing. If Arabs complain about Israeli attacks on Palestinians, they cannot then accept Palestinian suicide bombers. In response to Al Zahar's complaint that Israel was pressuring Hamas, Shaikh Khalid said it was impossible not to deal with Israel. Hamas should establish links with Israel for its own good. Shaikh Khalid commented that he had met with UAE Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan earlier that same day, and they had coordinated their messages to Al Zahar. Al Zahar had received similar points from Egyptian Foreign Minister Abul Gheith. Shaikh Khalid told the Ambassador that Hamas has to make some tough decisions or else they will cause harm to themselves.

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